IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

CYNTHIA R. PEREZ	§	
	§	
V.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:16-cv-436
	§	
BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT	§	
TRANSPORTATION AND KNIGHT	§	
TRANSPORTATION, INC.	§	JURY REQUESTED

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COME NOW Defendants, BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION AND KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC., and hereby give notice of their removal of Cause No. 2016CCV-62108-1filed in the County Court at Law No. One (1) of Nueces County, Texas, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1446.

Factual Background

- 1. On or about November 14, 2014, Plaintiff claims she was injured when her vehicle was struck by a Knight Transportation tractor and trailer in Nueces County, Texas. Plaintiff filed suit in state court.
- 2. Plaintiff filed suit in state court on September 12, 2016. Service of Citation and Petition with Requests for Disclosure on Knight Transportation and Knight Transportation, Inc. by service on the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission on September 28, 2016. Service of Citation and Petition with Requests for Disclosure was on Benjamin Ortiz by service on the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission on September 28, 2016. In Plaintiff's Petition there is a monetary claim for damages in an amount greater than \$100,000.00, which exceeds the

jurisdictional minimum. The case has been on file for less than one year. Removal is both timely and appropriate.

Basis for Removal and Jurisdiction

3. This cause may be removed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). "[A]ny civil action brought in State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant . . . , to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending." This Court has jurisdiction over this matter under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship and the amount in controversy is greater than \$75,000.00.

Full Diversity Between the Parties

Complete Diversity of Citizenship

- 4. To have diversity of citizenship, each plaintiff must have a different citizenship from each defendant. 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Complete diversity of citizenship exists between the parties as the Plaintiff is a Texas citizen and none of the Defendants are Texas citizens or corporations
 - 5. Plaintiff, Cynthia R. Perez, is a resident and citizen of the State of Texas.
 - 6. Defendant, Benjamin Ortiz, is a resident and citizen of the State of Florida.
- 7. Defendants, Knight Transportation and Knight Transportation, Inc. is an Arizona corporation with its principal place of business in Arizona.

Amount in Controversy

- 8. In order for diversity jurisdiction to exist, the amount in controversy must exceed \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).
- 9. In papers filed in State court, Plaintiff alleges damages being sought are over \$100,000.00, but not more than \$200,000.00.

Removal is Timely and Appropriate

10. If the plaintiff creates diversity jurisdiction sometime after filing the initial complaint, the defendant has one year from the commencement of the suit to remove. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). A defendant has 30 days to remove a civil action after receipt of the first pleading or other paper that establishes the jurisdictional grounds. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). When diversity is the basis for removal, the defendant can rely on the plaintiff's voluntary assertion of damages within the complaint to meet the monetary jurisdictional requirement for diversity. *S.W.S. Erectors, Inc. v. Infax, Inc.*, 72 F.3d 489, 492 (5th Cir. 1996). "The burden of establishing subject matter jurisdiction in federal court rests on the party seeking to invoke it." *St. Paul Reinsurance Co. v. Greenberg*, 134 F.3d 1250, 1253 (5th Cir. 1998). Here, Plaintiff's Pleading voluntarily asserts an amount in controversy in excess of at least \$100,000.00. This removal is filed within the thirty (30) days of the service of Plaintiff's Petition. The removal is both timely and appropriate.

Jury Demanded

11. Defendants request that the case be tried before a jury.

Consent of Served Defendants

12. Defendants, Knight Transportation, Knight Transportation, Inc. and Benjamin Ortiz, have been properly served and consent to this removal.

Compliance with Local Rule and Notice Requirements

14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446 and Local Rule 81, the following documents are attached to this Notice:

Exhibit A Plaintiff's Original Petition with Civil Case Information Sheet

Exhibit B Citation Request Sheet

Exhibit C......Citation for Personal Service - Resident

Exhibit D......Affidavit of Delivery on Texas Transportation Commission on Benjamin Ortiz

Exhibit E...... Affidavit of Delivery on Texas Transportation Commission on Knight Transportation and Knight Transportation, Inc.

Defendants know of no orders signed by the state judge.

15. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1446(d), written notice of the filing of this instrument will be given to Plaintiff. A true and correct copy of this Notice of Removal will also be attached as an exhibit with the written Notice of Removal filed with the clerk of the state court.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger D. Oppenheim

Roger D. Oppenheim

FBN: 14206 SBN: 15292400

OF COUNSEL:
LORANCE & THOMPSON, P.C.
2900 North Loop West, Suite 500
Houston, TX 77092
713/868-5560
713/864-4671 (fax)
rdo@lorancethompson.com
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION AND KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 19th day of October, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument was served by e-filing and/or facsimile to the following counsel of record:

Mr. David A. Huerta Huerta Guerra Beam, PLLC 924 Leopard Street Corpus Christi, TX 78401 dhuerta@hgblawfirm.com

/s/ Roger D. Oppenheim	
Roger D. Oppenheim	

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

CYNTHIA R. PEREZ	§	
	§	
V.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:16-cv-436
	§	
BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT	§	
TRANSPORTATION AND KNIGHT	§	
TRANSPORTATION, INC.	§	JURY REQUESTED

INDEX OF MATTERS BEING FILED

Defendants, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. AND BENJAMIN ORTIZ, in connection with the removal of this case to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, file their index of matters, as follows:

Exhibit A Plaintiff's Original Petition with Civil Case Information Sheet

Exhibit B Citation Request Sheet

Exhibit C......Citation for Personal Service - Resident

Exhibit D......Affidavit of Delivery on Texas Transportation Commission on Benjamin Ortiz

Exhibit E...... Affidavit of Delivery on Texas Transportation Commission on Knight Transportation and Knight Transportation, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger D. Oppenheim

Roger D. Oppenheim

FBN: 14206 SBN: 15292400 OF COUNSEL:

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Houston, TX 77092
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rdo@lorancethompson.com
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS
BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION
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Mr. David A. Huerta Huerta Guerra Beam, PLLC 924 Leopard Street Corpus Christi, TX 78401 dhuerta@hgblawfirm.com

/s/ Roger D. Oppenheim	
Roger D. Oppenheim	

CIVIL CASE INFORMATION SHEET 2016CCV-62108-1

Filed 9/12/2016 3:00:44 PM Anne Lorentzen District Clerk Nueces County, Texas

CAUSE NUMBER (FOR CLERK USE ONLY):

COURT (FOR CLERK USE ONLY): __

STYLED: CYNTHIA R. PEREZ V. BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, AND KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.

(e.g., John Smith v. All American Insurance Co; In re Mary Ann Jones; In the Matter of the Estate of George Jackson)

A civil case information sheet must be completed and submitted when an original petition or application is filed to initiate a new civil, family law, probate, or mental health case or when a post-judgment petition for modification or motion for enforcement is filed in a family law case. The information should be the best available at

the time of filing.						
1. Contact information for person	on completing case information sh	heet:	Names of parties in c	ase:	Person	or entity completing sheet is:
Name: David A. Huerta	Email: dhuerta@hgblawfirm.com		Plaintiffs: Cynthia R. Perez	1136-	X Attorn	ey for Plaintiff/Petitioner Plaintiff/Petitioner V-D Agency
Address: 924 Leopard St. City/State/Zip: CCTX 78401 Signature:	Telephone: 361.884.1632 Fax: 361.884.7013 State Bar No:	1	Defendants; Benjamin Ortiz, Knigh and Knight Transporta [Attach additional page as nec	tion, Inc.	Custodial	al Parties in Child Support Case:
IST DAVID A. HUERTA	<u>00796792</u>				Presumed	i Father:
2. Indicate case type, or identify	the most important issue in the c	ase (select o	only 1):			
	Civil				Fam	nily Law
Contract	Injury or Damage	R	leal Property	Marriage Relat		Post-judgment Actions (non-Title IV-D)
Debt/Contract	Assault/Battery	Emino	ent Domain/	Annulment		Enforcement
Consumer/DTPA Debt/Contract	☐Construction ☐Defamation	Conde	emnation	Divorce	age Void	☐Modification—Custody ☐Modification—Other
Fraud/Misrepresentation	Malpractice	Quiet		₩ith Child	ren	Title IV-D
Other Debt/Contract:	Accounting		ass to Try Title	No Childre	n l	Enforcement/Modification
Foreclosure	☐Legal ☐Medical	Other	r Property:			Paternity
Home Equity—Expedited	Other Professional		-			Reciprocals (UIFSA) Support Order
Other Foreclosure	Liability:					
Franchise	☑Motor Vehicle Accident	Rela	ited to Criminal Matters	Other Family		Parent-Child Relationship
Insurance	Premises	Exput		Enforce Forei		Adoption/Adoption with
☐Landlord/Tenant ☐Non-Competition	Product Liability Asbestos/Silica		ment Nisi	Judgment	ь	Termination
Partnership	Other Product Liability	□Non-I	Disclosure	Habeas Corpu		Child Protection
Other Contract:	List Product:	∐Seizu	re/Forfeiture	Name Change		☐Child Support
<u> </u>	<u> </u>		of Habeas Corpus—	Protective Ord		Custody or Visitation Gestational Parenting
	Other Injury or Damage: Slip and fall	Other		of Minority	13abiitte3	☐Grandparent Access
				☐Other:		Paternity/Parentage
Employment	Other					Termination of Parental Rights
☐Discrimination☐Retaliation	Administrative Appeal		er Discipline			Other Parent-Child:
Termination	Competition		tuate Testimony rities/Stock			
Workers' Compensation	☐Code Violations		ous Interference			
Other Employment:	Foreign Judgment	Other				
	Intellectual Property		<u></u>			
Tax			Probate & Mo			
☐Tax Appraisal ☐Tax Delinquency	Probate/Wills/Intestate Administ Dependent Administration	tration	_	Guardianship—Adu	ılt	
Other Tax	Independent Administration	ı n		Guardianship—Mir Mental Health	ior	
i i	Other Estate Proceedings	,,,		Other:		
3 Indicate procedure or semed	y, if applicable (may select more th	han II.				
Appeal from Municipal or Ju		atory Judgm		Preju	dgment Rei	medy
Arbitration-related	Garnish				ctive Order	
Attachment	☐Interple	eader		Rece	iver	
☐Bill of Review	License				estration	
Certiorari	☐ Mandar					aining Order/Injunction
Class Action	Post-jud			Turn	over	
	not select if it is a family law case) g damages of any kind, penalties, co		es pre-judament intera	est and attorney feed		<u>-</u>
Less than \$100,000 and non-		zata, expellat	es, pre-juagment interc	a, and accorney rees		
Over \$100, 000 but not more	than \$200,000					
Over \$200,000 but not more (than \$1,000,000				וח פ	EFENDANT'S
Over \$1,000,000					§	EXHIBIT
					· ·	

Cause No.	2016CCV-62108-1 	Anne Lorentzen District Clerk Nueces County, Texas
Cynthia R. Perez	§	In County Court
	§	
vs.	§	
	§	At Law No
Benjamin Ortiz, Knight Transportation,	§	
and Knight Transportation, Inc.	§	
_	§	Nueces County, Texas

2016CCV-62108-1

9/12/2016 3:00:44 PM

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

1. Discovery Level and Requests for Disclosure

- 1.1 Plaintiff requests that the Court issue an order providing for "Level 3" Discovery pursuant to Rule 190.4 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 1.2 Each Defendant is requested to disclose, within fifty (50) days of service of this petition, the information or material described in T.R.C.P. 194.2(a)-(1).

2. Parties and Service

- 2.1 Plaintiff is an individual who resides in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas.
- 2.2 Defendant Benjamin Ortiz is an individual residing in Lutz, Florida. Defendant may be served with process at 26654 Players Cir., Apt. 3, Lutz, Hillsborough County, Florida 33559-6210, or at 4505 NW 200th St, Miami Gardens, Miami-Dade County, Florida, 33055-1514.
- 2.3 Defendant Benjamin Ortiz was a "Nonresident Motorist" operating a vehicle on the roadways of the State of Texas at the time of the occurrence in question. As a "Nonresident Motorist" Defendant, Benjamin Ortiz may be served pursuant to Texas C.P.R.C. § 17.061 et seq., by serving the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission. The Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis,

may be served by serving his designated agent for service of process, The Office of General Counsel at 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483. Defendant Benjamin Ortiz may be served at 26654 Players Cir., Apt. 3, Lutz, Hillsborough County, Florida 33559-6210, or at 4505 NW 200 St., Miami Gardens, Miami-Dade County, Florida, 33055. Plaintiff hereby tenders the \$25.00 fee to and requests the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission to supply a certificate certifying any action or occurrence associated with the service of process.

- 2.4 Defendant Knight Transportation is a foreign entity utilizing the public roadways of the State of Texas. Defendant Knight Transportation was a "Nonresident Motorist" operating a vehicle on the roadways of the State of Texas at the time of the occurrence in question. As a "Nonresident Motorist," Defendant Knight Transportation may be served pursuant to Texas C.P.R.C. § 17.061 et seq., by serving the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission. The Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis, may be served by serving his designated agent for service of process, The Office of General Counsel at 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483. Defendant Knight Transportation may be served at 115232 Stoney Creek Road, Noblesville, Nobleville County, Indiana 46060. Plaintiff hereby tenders the \$25.00 fee to and requests the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission to supply a certificate certifying any action or occurrence associated with the service of process.
- 2.5 Defendant **Knight Transportation**, **Inc.**, is a foreign entity registered to do business in the State of Texas and may be served with citation by serving its registered

agent for service of process, C T Corporation System 1999 Bryan St., Ste. 900 Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75201-3136.

2.6 Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 28, and for the purpose of enforcing a substantive right, Plaintiff also hereby sues all corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, unincorporated associations, private corporations, companies of any kind, and/or individuals doing business under the assumed or common name "Knight Transportation" or any similar name, combination, or derivation, as well as any entity that owned or exercised control over the vehicle involved in a motor vehicle collision with the Plaintiff as described below.

3. Jurisdiction and Venue

- 3.1 The amount in controversy is within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.
- 3.2 Venue is proper in Nueces County under T.C.P.R.C. § 15.002(a)(1) because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in Nueces County, Texas.

4. Facts

4.1 This suit arises from an auto collision that occurred in Nueces County, Texas, on or about November 14, 2014. On that date, Defendant failed to use ordinary care in driving his vehicle and struck Plaintiff's vehicle. As a result of the collision, Plaintiff suffered injuries.

5. Negligence

5.1 Defendant Ortiz had a duty to use reasonable care in driving his vehicle.

On the occasion in question, Defendant failed to use reasonable care, and his negligence

proximately caused the collision in question and Plaintiffs' damages. Defendant was negligent in one or more of the following ways:

- a. Failing to yield the right of way;
- b. Failing to keep a proper lookout.
- 5.2 At the time of the incident in question, Defendant Dominguez was in the course and scope of his employment for Defendant Knight Transportation, Inc. Defendant Knight Transportation, Inc., is therefore responsible for his conduct under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.
- 5.3 Defendant Knight Transportation had a duty to use reasonable care in training and supervising Defendant Dominguez and in entrusting its vehicle. Defendant Knight Transportation failed to use reasonable care, and its negligence proximately caused the collision in question and Plaintiffs' damages. Defendant was negligent in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. Hiring an unfit driver;
 - b. Failing to properly train or supervise its employee;
 - Failing to properly monitor its employee's driving;
 - d. Failing to adopt or implement proper policies or procedures regarding safe driving practices;
 - e. Entrusting a vehicle to a driver it knew or should have known was incompetent or reckless.
- 5.4 Defendants' negligence, as described above, proximately caused the incident in question and Plaintiff's damages.

6. Damages

- 6.1 As a proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff suffered serious injuries. Plaintiff seeks recovery for all categories of damages permitted by Texas law, past and future, which may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Reasonable and necessary medical expenses;
 - b. Physical pain and suffering and mental anguish;
 - c. Physical impairment;

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- d. Loss of wage-earning capacity;
- e. Property damage and/or diminished value of property.
- 6.2 Plaintiff's damages have occurred in the past and in reasonable probability will continue into the future.

7. Jury Demand

7.1 Plaintiff requests a trial by jury and tenders the appropriate fee.

8. Statement Required By Rule 47

8.1 Based on the information currently available, this case is subject to T.R.C.P. 47(c)(3). Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this statement as additional information becomes available. At the time of trial, Plaintiff will ask the jury to allow full compensation for all harms and losses Plaintiff has suffered as a result of Defendants' negligence and/or negligence.

9. Prayer

9.1 For these reasons, Plaintiff asks that the Court issue citation for Defendants to appear and answer, and that the Court enter judgment for Plaintiff against Defendants for the following:

- a. Actual damages;
- b. Pre- and post-judgment interest to the full extent permitted by law;
- c. Costs of suit; and
- d. All other relief to which Plaintiff may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

HUERTA GUERRA BEAM, PLLC 924 Leopard St. Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 (361) 884-1632 (361) 884-7013 Fax

/s/ DAVID A. HUERTA

David A. Huerta
State Bar No. 00796792
dhuerta@hgblawfirm.com
Patrick L. Beam
State Bar No. 01955560
pbeamAlerts@gmail.com

9/12/2016 3:00:44 PM Anne Lorentzen District Clerk Nueces County, Texas

CITATION REQUEST SHEET

SERVICE WILL ONLY BE ISSUED UPON PAYMENT OF COST

CAUSE NUMBER: DATE OF REQUEST: September 12, 2016
NAME OF DOCUMENT/PLEDING TO BE SERVED:
Plaintiff's Original Petition and Request for Disclosure
SERVICE BY: [√] ATTORNEY OR PROCESS SERVER: <u>Joe Perez</u> PHONE: <u>361.688.0765</u>
[] CERTIFIED MAIL [] RESTRICTED DELIVERY [] CONSTABLE/SHERIFF [] RETURN BY MAIL
[] COURTHOUSE POSTING # OF DAYS TO BE POSTED: STATEMENT OF SUIT (USE REVERSE SIDE)
[[PUBLICATION # OF DAYS TO BE PUBLISHED:
NAME OF NEWSPAPER:
PARTY/PARTIES TO BE SERVED:
 Defendant Knight Transportation, Inc., is a foreign entity registered to do business in the State of Texas and may be served with citation by serving its registered agent for service of process, C T Corporation System 1999 Bryan St., Ste. 900 Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75201-3136.
2. Defendant Knight Transportation may be served as a non resident motorist may be served pursuant to Texas C.P.R.C. § 17.061 et seq., by serving the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission. The Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis, may be served by serving his designated agent for service of process, The Office of General Counsel at 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483. Defendant Knight Transportation may be served at 115232 Stoney Creek Road, Noblesville, Nobleville County, Indiana 46060. Plaintiff hereby tenders the \$25.00 fee to and requests the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission to supply a certificate certifying any action or occurrence associated with the service of process.
3. Defendant Benajamin Ortiz may be served as a non resident motorist may be served pursuant to Texas C.P.R.C. § 17.061 <i>et seq.</i> , by serving the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission. The Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis, may be served by serving his designated agent for service of process, The Office of General Counsel at 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483. Defendant Benjamin Ortiz may be served at 26654 Players Cir., Apt. 3, Lutz, Hillsborough County, Florida 33559-6210, or at 4505 NW 200 St., Miami Gardens, Miami-Dade County, Florida, 33055.
Plaintiff hereby tenders the \$25.00 fee to and requests the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission to supply a certificate certifying any action or occurrence associated with the service of process.
SIGNATURE REQUIRED BY ATTORNEY YOR PARTY REQUESTING PROCESS:
NAME /s/ DAVID A. HUERTA PHONE NUMBER 361.884.1632
MAILING ADDRESS 924 Leopard St. Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

The second secon



Citation for Personal Service -RESIDENT

Case Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO: Knight Transportation, Inc.
By Serving Its Registered Agent
CT Corporation System
1999 Bryan St., Ste 900
Dallas, TX 75201-3136

the Defendant,

GREETING: You are commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, Civil Case Information Sheet; at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of this citation before the <u>Honorable Robert J. Vargas</u>, <u>County Court at Law</u> #1 of Nueces County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County in Corpus Christi, Texas. Said Petition was filed on the 12th day of September, 2016. A copy of same accompanies this citation.

The file number of said suit being Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

The style of the case is: Cynthia R Perez vs. Benjamin Ortiz, Knight Transportation, Knight Transportation, Inc.

Said Petition was filed in said court by **David A Huerta**, attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 924 Leopard, Corpus Christi, TX 78401.

The nature of the demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the Petition accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly mail the same according to requirement of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Corpus Christi, Texas, this 21st day of September, 2016.

TO DISTRICT COMPTINE

ANNE LORENTZEN, DISTRICT CLERK NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS 901 LEOPARD STREET, ROOM 313 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

BY: Matha Homillo, Deputy

Martha Hominick



RETURN OF SERVICE

2016CCV-62108-1

CYNTHIA R PEREZ VS. BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.

COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1

Name

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE

Knight Transportation, I By Serving its Registered				. ′		-
CT Corporation System 1999 Bryan St., Ste 900 Dallas, TX 75201-3136						
	OFFICER'S	OR AUTHORIZE	ED PERSON	1'S RETURN		
Came to hand on the	day of _ County, Texas by deliver	, 20 ing to the within na	, at med defenda	o'clock_ nt in person, a t	m., and execute	ed in otice of Petition
to Suspend License with	the date of delivery endors	sed thereon, togethe , at the follow	r with the ac	companying cop and places, to-w	py of the vit:	
NAME	DATE/TIME	, w u.u .o	PLACE, CO	DURSE & DIS	TANCE FROM (COURTHOUSE
And not executed as to	the defendant(s),					
The diligence used in fi	nding said defendant(s) bei	ng:	•		•	
and the cause of failure	to execute this process is:	, ————————————————————————————————————				
and the information rec	eived as to the whereabouts	of said defendant(s	s) being:			
Fees:					, Officer	
Serving Petition and Co	ppy \$			•••••••	, County,	Texas
Total	\$	Ву			, Deputy	
COMPLETE IF	YOU ARE A PERSON OT	THER THAN A SI	HERIFF, CO	ONSTABLE, O	R CLERK OF TI	HE COURT.
License shall sign the reconstable, or the clerk of	e 107: The officer or autho eturn. The signature is not i of the court, the return shall	equired to be verifi be signed under pe	ied. If the renalty of perju	tum is signed by ary and contain	y a person other tha the following state	nn a sheriff, ment:
"My name is	liddle, Last)	, my	date of birth	1 is	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	, and my
(Street,	City, State, Zip, Country)		1811 1 1 1			<u></u>
	PENALTY OF PERJURY		OING IS TR	UE AND CORI	RECT.	
Executed in		_ County, State of			, on the	day of
of						
		Ī	Declarant / A	uthorized Proce	ss Server	

ID# & Expiration of Certification

AFFIDAVIT OF DELIVERY

State of Texas

Nueces County

County Court at Law Number One

Cause Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

Cynthia R. Perez, Plaintiff

VS.

Benjamin Ortiz, Knight Transportation, Knight Transportation, Inc., Defendants

DOCUMENTS: Citation for Personal Service- Department of Transportation with

Plaintiff's Original Petition and Civil Case Information Sheet

CAME TO MY HAND ON: September 21, 2016, at 3:15 p.m.

DOCUMENTS DELIVERED BY ME ON: September 28, 2016 at 12:02 p.m.

DELIVERED BY ME AT: 125 East 11th Street, 6th Floor

Austin, Travis County, Texas 78701

Personally delivered by me the documents (two true and correct copies of the Citation for Personal Service with Plaintiff's Original Petition and Civil Case Information Sheet) TO BENJAMIN ORTIZ BY DELIVERING IN DUPLICATE COPIES TO THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMISSION; MR. TRYON D. LEWIS BY SERVING ITS DESIGNATED AGENT, THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL AND ACCEPTED BY ALICIA RAMON-KANE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL/AUTHORIZED PERSON.

I, Joe R. Perez, Perez Service Company, am over the age of sixteen, and am neither a party to or interested in the outcome of the above suit. I HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS SET FORTH, I have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude in any State or Federal Jurisdiction, and have studied and am familiar with the TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, VERNON'S TEXAS STATUES, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE and all other applicable rules and statues relating to service of citations and notices. I am certified by the Supreme Court of Texas and whose Certification Number is SCH 1527. The expiration date is September 30, 2017.

Joe R. Perez SCH 1527 Process Server

Perez Service Company

P.O. Box 18432

1650 South Brownlee Blvd. Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

tary Public-State of Texas

MELISSA MARTINEZ
My Commussion Expires
August 12, 2017



ORIGINAL

Citation for Personal Service - Department of Transportation

Case Number: 2016CCV-62108-1
THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO: Benjamin Ortiz 26654 Players Cir., Apt 3, Lutz, FL 33559-6210 OR 4505 NW 200 St., Miami Gardens, Florida 33055

the Defendant, by serving in <u>DUPLICATE</u> copies to the Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis, By Serving His Designated Agent, THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78711-2483

GREETING: You are commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, Civil Case Information Sheet; at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable Robert J. Vargas, County Court at Law #1 of Nueces County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County in Corpus Christi, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Original Petition was filed on the 12th day of September, 2016. A copy of same accompanies this citation.

The file number of said suit being Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

The style of the case is: Cynthia R Perez vs. Benjamin Ortiz, Knight Transportation, Knight Transportation, Inc.

Said petition was filed in said court by David A Huerta attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 924 Leopard, Corpus Christi, TX 78401.

The nature of the demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the Petition accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly mail the same according to requirement of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Corpus Christi, Texas, this 21st day of September, 2016.

OS DISTRICT COLLARS S

ANNE LORENTZEN, DISTRICT CLERK NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS 901 LEOPARD STREET, ROOM 313 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

BY: Martha Hominick Deput

RETURN OF SERVICE

2016CCV-62108-1

CYNTHIA R PEREZ VS. BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT **COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1**

		ANSPORTATION, KNIGHT	
	T	RANSPORTATION, INC.	
Name			
	•		
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE			•
Benjamin Ortiz, 26654 Players Lutz, FL 33559-6210 OR 4503		PT	
33055	7 17 17 200 St., Midili Cardons,	, i D,	
	OFFICER'S OR	AUTHORIZED PERSON'S RETURN	
Came to hand on the	day of	, 20, ato'clock m.,	and executed in
Co	unty, Texas by delivering to	o the within named defendant in person, a true cop	y of this Notice of Petition
to Suspend License with the	•	hereon, together with the accompanying copy of th , at the following times and places, to-wit:	e
NAME	DATE/TIME	PLACE, COURSE & DISTANC	E FROM COURTHOUSE
And not executed as to the d			
The diligence used in finding	g said defendant(s) being:		
and the cause of failure to ex	cecute this process is:		
and the information received	i as to the whereabouts of s	aid defendant(s) being:	The state of the s
Fees:			, Officer
Serving Petition and Copy	\$, County, Texas
Total	\$	Ву	, Deputy
COMPLETE IF YOU	ARE A PERSON OTHE	R THAN A SHERIFF, CONSTABLE, OR CLE	RK OF THE COURT.
In accordance with Dule 10	7. The officer or outhorized	d person who serves, or attempts to serve, a Notice	of Detition to Sugmend
		ired to be verified. If the return is signed by a pers	
		igned under penalty of perjury and contain the follo	
"My name is		, my date of birth is	and my
(First, Middl			
address is	-,,		
(Street, City,	State, Zip, Country)		
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Executed in	C	ounty, State of, or	the day of
of	_, 20		
		Declarant / Authorized Process Serve	er
	ATTACHED	ID# & Expiration of Certification	
A. X	FIDAVIT		
	A. Blown and		

Citation for Personal Service - Department of Transportation



Case Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO: Benjamin Ortiz 26654 Players Cir., Apt 3, Lutz, FL 33559-6210 OR 4505 NW 200 St., Miami Gardens, Florida 33055

the Defendant, by serving in <u>DUPLICATE</u> copies to the Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis, By Serving His Designated Agent, THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78711-2483

GREETING: You are commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, Civil Case Information Sheet; at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable Robert J. Vargas, County Court at Law #1 of Nucces County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County in Corpus Christi, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Original Petition was filed on the 12th day of September, 2016. A copy of same accompanies this citation.

The file number of said suit being Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

The style of the case is: Cynthia R Perez vs. Benjamin Ortiz, Knight Transportation, Knight Transportation, Inc.

Said petition was filed in said court by David A Huerta attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 924 Leopard, Corpus Christi, TX 78401.

The nature of the demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the Petition accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly mail the same according to requirement of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Corpus Christi, Texas, this 21st day of September, 2016.

CONTROL COUNTRY OF SCHOOL STATE OF SCHOOL STAT

ANNE LORENTZEN, DISTRICT CLERK NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS 901 LEOPARD STREET, ROOM 313 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

BY: Martha Hominick Deput

RETURN OF SERVICE

2016CCV-62108-1

CYNTHIA R PEREZ VS. BENJAMIN ORTIZ,KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION,KNIGHT

COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1

	TR	RANSPORTATION, INC.	
Name			
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE Benjamin Ortiz, 26654 Players Lutz, FL 33559-6210 OR 4503 33055	s Cir., Apt 3	, FL.	
	OFFICER'S OR	AUTHORIZED PERSON'S RETURN	
Came to hand on theCo	day oftay oft	, 20, at o'clock m., and execute o the within named defendant in person, a true copy of this No	ed in tice of Petition
to Suspend License with the		hereon, together with the accompanying copy of the, at the following times and places, to-wit:	
NAME	DATE/TIME	PLACE, COURSE & DISTANCE FROM C	OURTHOUSE
And not executed as to the d The diligence used in finding			25,011
and the cause of failure to ex	recute this process is:		
and the information received	l as to the whereabouts of sa	aid defendant(s) being:	
Fees: Serving Petition and Copy Total	\$ \$	Officer County, By Deputy	Texas
In accordance with Rule 107 License shall sign the return	7: The officer or authorized . The signature is not require	R THAN A SHERIFF, CONSTABLE, OR CLERK OF THE depression who serves, or attempts to serve, a Notice of Petition ired to be verified. If the return is signed by a person other that igned under penalty of perjury and contain the following states	to Suspend in a sheriff,
•	e, Last)	, my date of birth is	
(Street, City, I DECLARE UNDER PEN	State, Zip, Country) ALTY OF PERJURY THAT	T THE FORGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT. ounty, State of, on the	day of
		Declarant / Authorized Process Server	
		ID# & Expiration of Certification	

AFFIDAVIT OF DELIVERY

State of Texas

Nucces County

County Court at Law Number One

Cause Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

Cynthia R. Perez, Plaintiff

VS.

Benjamin Ortiz, Knight Transportation, Knight Transportation, Inc., Defendants

DOCUMENTS: Citation for Personal Service- Department of Transportation with Plaintiff's Original Petition and Civil Case Information Sheet

CAME TO MY HAND ON: September 21, 2016, at 3:15 p.m.

DOCUMENTS DELIVERED BY ME ON: September 28, 2016 at 12:02 p.m.

DELIVERED BY ME AT: 125 East 11th Street, 6th Floor Austin, Travis County, Texas 78701

Personally delivered by me the documents (two true and correct copies of the Citation for Personal Service with Plaintiff's Original Petition and Civil Case Information Sheet) TO KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION BY DELIVERING IN DUPLICATE COPIES TO THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMISSION; MR. TRYON D. LEWIS BY SERVING ITS DESIGNATED AGENT, THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL AND ACCEPTED BY ALICIA RAMON-KANE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL/AUTHORIZED PERSON.

I, Joe R. Perez, Perez Service Company, am over the age of sixteen, and am neither a party to or interested in the outcome of the above suit. I HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS SET FORTH. I have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude in any State or Federal Jurisdiction, and have studied and am familiar with the TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, VERNON'S TEXAS STATUES, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE and all other applicable rules and statues relating to service of citations and notices. I am certified by the Supreme Court of Texas and whose Certification Number is SCH 1527. The expiration date is September 30, 2017.

Joe R. Perez SCH 1527 Process Server

Perez Service Company

P.O. Box 18432

1650 South Browniee Blvd. Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

Notary Public-State of Texas

ECES COUNTY TEXAS

. the





Citation for Personal Service - Department of Transportation

Case Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO: Knight Transportation 115232 Stoney Creek Road, Noblesville, IN 46060

the Defendant, by serving in <u>DUPLICATE</u> copies to the, Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis, By Serving His Designated Agent, THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483.

GREETING: You are commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition, Civil Case Information Sheet; at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable Robert J. Vargas, County Court at Law #1 of Nueces County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County in Corpus Christi, Texas. Said Original Petition Documents E-filed (Plaintiff's Original Petition) was filed on the 12th day of September, 2016. A copy of same accompanies this citation.

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The officer executing this writ shall promptly mail the same according to requirement of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Corpus Christi, Texas, this 21st day of September, 2016.

DISTRICT CO.

ANNE LORENTZEN, DISTRICT CLERK NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS 901 LEOPARD STREET, ROOM 313 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

BY: Matha Homenick

Martha Hominick

RETURN OF SERVICE

TRANSPORTATION, INC.

2016CCV-62108-1

CYNTHIA R PEREZ VS. BENJAMIN ORTIZ,KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, KNIGHT COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1

Name

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE

Knight Transportation

115232 Stoney Creek Road Noblesville, IN 46060				
	OFFICER'S	OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S 1	RETURN	***
	County, Texas by deliver	, 20 , at	person, a true copy of this Notice	in ce of Petition
to Suspend License with t		sed thereon, together with the accom		
NAME	DATE/TIME		RSE & DISTANCE FROM CO	URTHOUSE
And not executed as to the	e defendant(s),	. ,		
The diligence used in find				
and the cause of failure to	execute this process is:			
and the information receive	ved as to the whereabout	s of said defendant(s) being:		
Fees:			, Officer	
Serving Petition and Copy	y \$, County, T	'exas
Total	\$	Ву	, Deputy	
COMPLETE IF YO	DU ARE A PERSON O	THER THAN A SHERIFF, CONS	TABLE, OR CLERK OF THE	COURT.
y in the second	100 cc			D
		orized person who serves, or attempts required to be verified. If the return		-
_ ,	_	be signed under penalty of perjury a	- •	
		, my date of birth is	-	
(First, Mic				,,
address is	• •			
(Street, Ci	ty, State, Zip, Country)			
I DECLARE UNDER PE	ENALTY OF PERJURY	THAT THE FORGOING IS TRUE	AND CORRECT.	
Executed in		County, State of	, on the	day of
of	, 20	County, State of		
		Declarant / Autho	orized Process Server	
	ساد ا			

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

ID# & Expiration of Certification



Citation for Personal Service - Department of Transportation

Case Number: 2016CCV-62108-1

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO: Knight Transportation 115232 Stoney Creek Road, Noblesville, IN 46060

the Defendant, by serving in **DUPLICATE** copies to the, Texas Transportation Commission, Mr. Tryon D. Lewis, By Serving His Designated Agent, THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, 125 E. 11th Street. Austin, Texas 78701-2483.

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ANNE LORENTZEN, DISTRICT CLERK NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS 901 LEOPARD STREET, ROOM 313 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

Martha Hominick

RETURN OF SERVICE

2016CCV-62108-1

CYNTHIA R PEREZ VS. BENJAMIN ORTIZ,KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION,KNIGHT

TRANSPORTATION, INC.

COUNTY COURT AT LAW #1

Name

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE

Knight Transportation 115232 Stoney Creek Road Noblesville, IN 46060						
	OFFICER'S	OR AUTHORI	ZED PERSON'S I	RETURN		
Came to hand on theCoi	day of unty, Texas by deliver					of Petition
to Suspend License with the			ther with the accom			
NAME	DATE/TIME		PLACE, COUR	RSE & DISTANCE	FROM COU	RTHOUSE
And not executed as to the de The diligence used in finding						
and the cause of failure to ex						
and the information received		s of said defendar	ut(s) being:	1,4244	·	
	<u></u>				Officer	
Fees: Serving Petition and Copy	\$		•			ae
Total	\$				Deputy	AU
COMPLETE IF YOU	ARE A PERSON O	THER THAN A	SHERIFF, CONS	TABLE, OR CLEI	RK OF THE C	OURT.
In accordance with Rule 107 License shall sign the return, constable, or the clerk of the "My name is	. The signature is not court, the return shall	required to be ve be signed under	rified. If the return penalty of perjury a	is signed by a perso and contain the follo	n other than a s wing statement	heriff, :
address is	•					
(Street, City, I DECLARE UNDER PENA	State, Zip, Country)	THAT THE FOR	GOING IS TRUE	AND CORRECT.		
Executed in		County, State	of	, on	the	day of
of	_, 20,					
	•		Declarant / Autho	rized Process Serve	ŗ	
			ID# & Expiration	of Certification	·	

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

CYNTHIA R. PEREZ	§	
	§	
V.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:16-cv-436
	§	
BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT	§	
TRANSPORTATION AND KNIGHT	§	
TRANSPORTATION, INC.	§	JURY REQUESTED

LIST OF PARTIES, COUNSEL OF RECORD AND STATUS

PLAINTIFF: DEFENDANTS:

Cynthia R. Perez Knight Transportation, Inc.

Knight Transportation

Benjamin Ortiz

ATTORNEYS:

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

David Huerta Roger D. Oppenheim SBN: 00796792 SBN: 15293400 FBN: FBN: 14205

HUERTA GUERRA BEAM, PLLC

924 Leopard Street

LORANCE & THOMPSON, PC

2900 North Loop West, Ste. 500

Corpus Christi, TX 78401 Houston, TX 77092 361/884-1632 713/868-5560 361/884-7013 (fax) 713/864-4671 (fax)

dhuerta@hgblawfirm.com rdo@lorancethompson.com

STATUS OF REMOVED CASE:

September 12, 2016 Plaintiff's Original Petition with Requests for Disclosure

October 19, 2016 Defendants' Notice of Removal

Defendants, Knight Transportation, Knight Transportation, Inc. and Benjamin Ortiz, have been served with the Plaintiff's Original Petition with Requests for Disclosure. Defendants have not filed responses to written discovery. No depositions have been taken. The matter has not been mediated. The case has no trial setting or other court ordered deadlines.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger D. Oppenheim

Roger D. Oppenheim

FBN: 14206 SBN: 15292400

OF COUNSEL:
LORANCE & THOMPSON, P.C.
2900 North Loop West, Suite 500
Houston, TX 77092
713/868-5560
713/864-4671 (fax)
rdo@lorancethompson.com
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS
BENJAMIN ORTIZ, KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION
AND KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 19th day of October, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument was served by e-filing and/or facsimile to the following counsel of record:

Mr. David A. Huerta Huerta Guerra Beam, PLLC 924 Leopard Street Corpus Christi, TX 78401 dhuerta@hgblawfirm.com

/s/ Roger D. Oppenheir	n
Roger D. Oppenheim	